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## Message from Bruce Scott Merry Christmas Maranoa!

It is hard to believe that it is almost Christmas and the end of another year. 2011 has been an extremely busy year both in the Maranoa electorate and the Federal Parliament.

Despite being in Opposition, I have still been able to secure a few wins for the Maranoa electorate. One of which I am particularly proud is forcing the Gillard Labor Government to back-flip on their decision to change the criteria for Youth Allowance. Under Labor's criteria, students in Dalby, Kingaroy and Warwick were classified as 'inner regional' students, meaning they had to work 30 hours a week to gain independent Youth Allowance, while young people in Cairns and Townsville, in the outer regional zone, only had to work 15 hours per week. Thanks to continuous pressure from the Liberal-National Coalition there is now a much more equitable system in place to support Maranoa's students.

But, of course, there have been many decisions made by the Gillard Labor Government which will have an adverse impact on the Maranoa electorate. In October, the Government dropped their carbon tax bomb, which passed through the House with support from the Greens and some Independent MPs. The legislation was then passed through the Senate in November, meaning that Australia will now have a carbon tax effective from 1 July 2012. Labor claims that only the 'top 500 polluters' will have to pay the carbon tax, but ultimately we will all feel its effects. On the government's own figures, 3 million Australian households will be worse off under the carbon tax. Of significant concern for our part of the world, will be the carbon tax's effect on transport costs. Businesses and farmers rely on the transport industry, whether it is for sending products to market or for transporting goods across our vast region. They will be forced to pay higher prices for transport to compensate for the carbon tax, and eventually that cost will be passed on to consumers. The Coalition will make the next election a referendum on the carbon tax. We will provide Australians with the opportunity to have their say, which they were denied at the last election. If elected, the Coalition will introduce legislation to repeal the Tax as the first priority.

Recently, we welcomed Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II to our shores. Australians turned out in force to see Her Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh Prince Philip during their 16th visit to Australia and I was particularly impressed by the numbers of young people in attendance. It is clearly evident that many Australians still consider Her Majesty and the Commonwealth to be as relevant today as they were when we first inherited the Crown in 1788. Being a member of the Commonwealth gives great strength to our nation, and we can of course thank the Commonwealth for our wonderful system of government which has stood the test of time in the face of world wars, civil unrest and even natural disasters.

As always, just a friendly reminder to stay safe on the roads this Christmas, and to drive carefully. Best wishes for 2012!

Kind regards,



*Bruce Scott*

**Bruce Scott**  
**YOUR FEDERAL LNP**  
**MEMBER FOR MARANOA**



# SPREAD THE CHRISTMAS CHEER: SHOP LOCALLY



**Bruce Scott is encouraging his constituents to spread the Christmas cheer this festive season by buying locally.**

"2011 has been a tough year for many local businesses across the Maranoa electorate," he said.

"Sometimes it can be difficult to get things locally, but I encourage anyone who can get something locally to buy it in town, rather than at a larger regional centre.

"I would also ask any companies operating in our region to source their supplies locally wherever it is possible.

*"The impact of money spent locally multiplies as it cycles through our towns' local economies."*

"By spending money earned locally within our communities, we are supporting local jobs and helping local businesses to grow and thrive."

Mr Scott also extended his best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

"I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas Day, filled with laughter and love and good cheer for the New Year," he said.

"But we shouldn't forget the true meaning of Christmas, which is about celebrating the birth of Christ and the spirit of giving with family and loved ones."

## FIXING THE YOUTH ALLOWANCE MESS

**After nearly two and a half years, the Government has finally fixed Julia Gillard's botched reforms to student income support from when she was the Minister for Education due to significant pressure from the Liberal-National Coalition.**

The Government has finally decided to abolish the discriminatory 'inner' regional classification for accessing Youth Allowance.

Mr Scott said the changes were a small win for Maranoa's students and their families, but stressed that a complete overhaul of the income support system was still necessary.

Under the new rules, students in towns such as Dalby, Kingaroy and Warwick will now be treated the same as those living in western Queensland.

"The government has finally done the right thing and moved to consider all regional students under the same classification," he said.

"This is a small victory for Maranoa families who have supported me and fought hard to force the government to change the rules which up until now have discriminated against regional students on the basis of lines on a map.

"However, the government has missed a golden opportunity to completely rework the student income support system and help regional and rural students meet their increased costs associated with attending university."

Mr Scott said the Coalition's plan to support rural and regional students was the best way forward.

"The Coalition recognises that students from rural and regional areas are forced to move away from home to attend university and face significant additional costs compared to their city counterparts," he said.

"Our plan for a Tertiary Access Allowance addresses the issue of inequity.

"It levels the playing field so that all regional students who are forced to relocate to undertake university studies receive support for accommodation and living away from home costs."





## WHAT BRUCE HAS BEEN UP TO IN 2011:

### JANUARY:

With flooding devastating most of the Maranoa electorate, Bruce welcomed Governor-General Quentin Bryce to inspect damage in Chinchilla and Condamine. Opposition Leader Tony Abbott and Leader of The Nationals Warren Truss joined with Bruce to meet with locals in Dalby to find out what support was needed. Bruce also spent Australia Day in Wandoan where he officially opened the Juandah Heritage Society's Folk Museum.

### FEBRUARY:

Bruce took his fight against Labor's unnecessary flood levy to Parliament House. He also travelled to the east of the electorate to meet with the new school leaders of Allora and Killarney State Schools.

### MARCH:

Bruce visited the far western Queensland communities of Bedourie and Birdsville after flooding caused significant damage to the region. Bruce also attended hearings for the Regional Australia Committee's inquiry into the Murray Darling Basin Plan in Goondiwindi, Dirranbandi and St George.

### APRIL:

Bruce travelled to Winton to meet with regional mayors at the Western Queensland Local Government Association conference.

### MAY:

Bruce welcomed much-needed government funds for the Warrego Highway west of Toowoomba. After constantly lobbying the government over the dangerous state of the highway, Bruce said the result was a real win for communities.

### JUNE:

Agricultural issues took centre stage in Canberra. Bruce fought hard against the Government's decision to allow the importation of New Zealand apples. He also stood up for cattle producers affected by Labor's bungled ban on live cattle exports to Indonesia.

### JULY:

Bruce welcomed the Coalition's commitment to fund a study into a viable long-term solution to the on-going problems at Cunningham's Gap. The commitment was made after Bruce toured the area with the Leader of The Nationals Warren Truss and community representatives. Bruce also travelled to the South Burnett to open Yarraman's refurbished community broadcast station.

### AUGUST:

Bruce spoke with the students of Aramac State School about Federal Parliament in preparation for their visit to Canberra.

### SEPTEMBER:

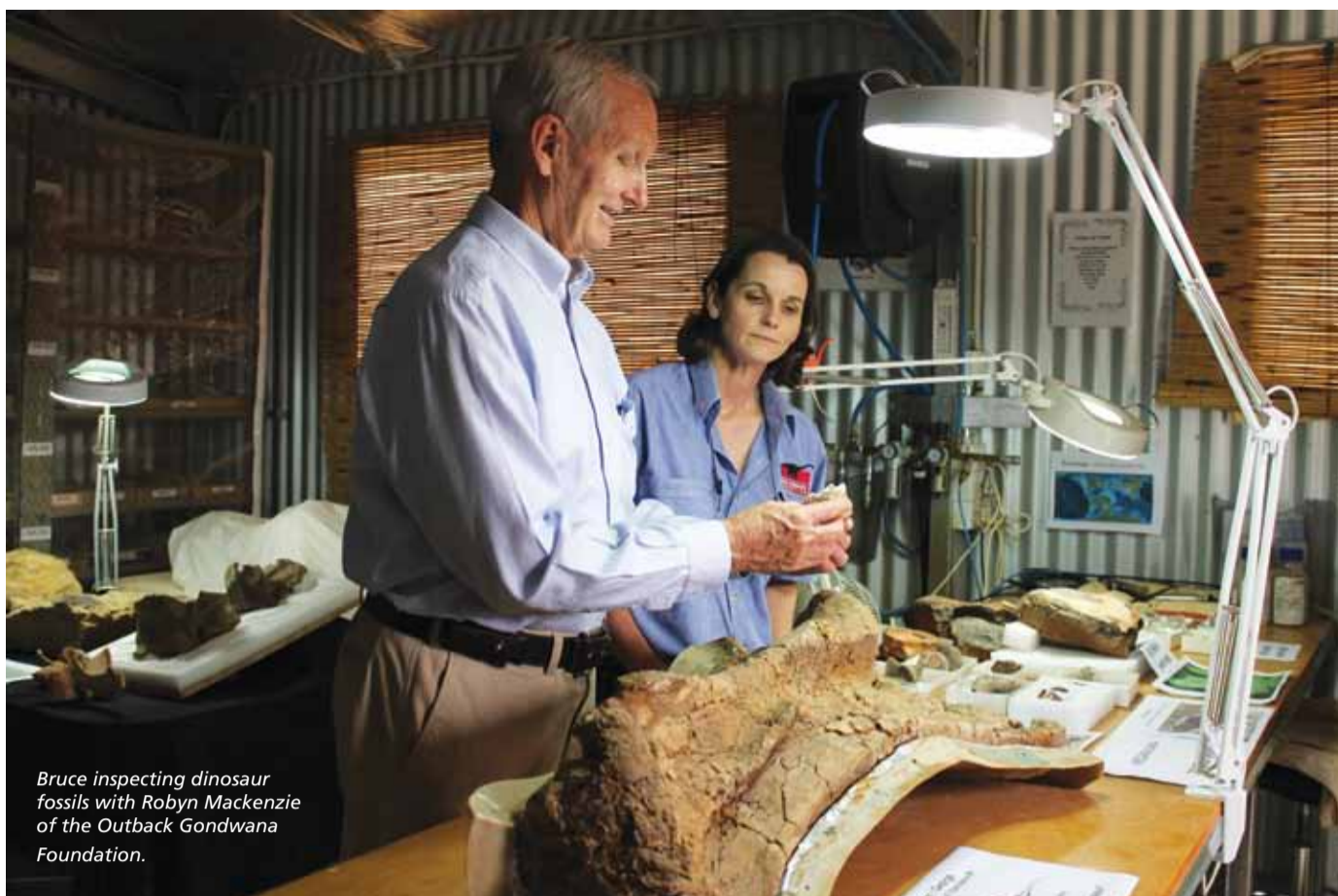
Bruce enjoyed one of the outback's most iconic events – The Birdsville Races – with Opposition Leader Tony Abbott. While in town, Bruce and Mr Abbott took the opportunity to discuss a range of issues, including the switchover to digital television and Indigenous health services, with local residents.

### OCTOBER:

Bruce met with the students of Our Lady of the Southern Cross College in Dalby to talk to them about the workings of Federal Parliament ahead of their visit to the nation's capital. Bruce also welcomed new citizens at an Australian Citizenship Ceremony in Roma.

### NOVEMBER:

Bruce paid tribute to Australia's service men and women at a Remembrance Day Commemorative Service in Kingaroy. He also attended the opening of the new Woolworths store in Chinchilla and celebrated the Applethorpe State School's centenary.



Bruce inspecting dinosaur fossils with Robyn Mackenzie of the Outback Gondwana Foundation.

## NATURAL HISTORY LIVES ON IN MARANOA

### Something very big is happening in the tiny south-western Queensland town of Eromanga.

In September, Bruce Scott headed to Eromanga to meet two of the largest dinosaurs to have ever roamed Australia - Cooper and George.

Cooper and George are titanosaur sauropods. Titanosaurs are one of the last remaining sauropod groups in the Cretaceous Period and also were the largest ever land-dwelling animals.

The bones of Cooper and George are the largest bones of any dinosaur so far discovered in Australia and Cooper's humerus is one of the most complete dinosaur bones known.

Based on the lengths of the humerus of Cooper and the femur of George, compared to dinosaurs from overseas, it has been estimated that the total body length of these dinosaurs could be between 24 and 26 metres.

The bones of Cooper and George were discovered outside the township of Eromanga thanks to the hard work of the Outback Gondwana Foundation.

Mr Scott met with members of the foundation during his fact-finding mission to Eromanga.

"As soon as I heard there were giant dinosaur bones right in my backyard, I had to come and see them for myself," he said.

*"The Outback Gondwana Foundation has done a fantastic job in uncovering these fossils and working to ensure they are preserved for future generations."*

OGF is now working hard to establish a natural sciences museum to exhibit and conserve not just their amazing dinosaur finds, but fossils of ancient plants and bugs, as well as showcase the region's Indigenous heritage.

Mr Scott said the OGF was one of the many organisations in the Maranoa electorate which had unfairly missed out on funding available through Regional Development Australia.

"I was disappointed to learn that a number of worthwhile projects including the OGF, the Granite Belt Support Services in Stanthorpe, the Maranoa Retirement Village in Mitchell, the Day Care Centre in Barcardine and the Cosmos Centre in Charleville had not been considered for funding from RDA," he said.

"I have since met with Minister Crean's office to discuss this gross oversight and I will continue to advocate on behalf of the projects in the Maranoa electorate which have received the seal of approval from their local RDA boards.

"So many people have volunteered their time and expertise to these projects and, as their local Federal Member; I will continue to support these organisations to ensure they receive the funding they need."

To learn more about the work of the Outback Gondwana Foundation visit their website: <http://ogf.org.au>.



Bruce and Opposition Leader Tony Abbott visit the geothermal power station in Birdsville.



Bruce on the Cunningham Highway with Southern Downs Mayor Ron Bellingham, Warwick Chamber of Commerce President David Littleproud, Leader of The Nationals Warren Truss and Member for Southern Downs Lawrence Springborg.



Bruce in the Chair as Second Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.

## IMPORTANT MEMO: THE MARANOA MEMO!

### Would you like to receive Bruce's e-newsletter?

The Maranoa Memo is a short summary of some of the goings-on across the electorate and in Federal Parliament. There is information on current grant programs, info on what Bruce is up to and where he is in the electorate, as well as a few comments on issues of a Federal nature.

Simply subscribe at Bruce's website [www.maranoa.info](http://www.maranoa.info).

# SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE VISITS WESTERN QUEENSLAND

**Bruce Scott recently welcomed the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Harry Jenkins MP to western Queensland for a four-day tour.**

Mr Scott and the Speaker travelled to Longreach, Mr Scott and the Speaker travelled to Longreach, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Winton and Birdsville.

Mr Scott said the Speaker's visit to western Queensland provided a unique opportunity to highlight the region's heritage and industries.

"The Speaker's own electorate of Scullin in north Melbourne is a very urban area, so it was exciting for the Speaker to experience Queensland outback hospitality at its best," he said.

Mr Scott and the Speaker visited the Tree of Knowledge and Workers Heritage Centre in Barcaldine, and took in the Stockman's Outback Show at the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame in Longreach.

While in Longreach, Mr Scott and the Speaker attended a special on-air lesson with students of the Longreach School of Distance Education.

The trip included a tour of the Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackways and the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum in Winton, dinner at the Waltzing Matilda Centre and an outback BBQ in Birdsville.

"With the Speaker of the House meeting many

international delegates on a regular basis, this visit to the Queensland outback will play an important part in showcasing our region at an international level too," Mr Scott said.

"The Speaker also met many local people including business and community leaders and members, and school students."



Left: Bruce and the Speaker with Winton Mayor Ed Warren. Right: Bruce and the Speaker of the House Harry Jenkins on air at the Longreach School of Distance Education.

# SNIPPETS

## FIND UNCLAIMED MONEY

Have you any money stashed away that you have forgotten about, or didn't know you had?

Find out if you have any unclaimed money by searching the records of unclaimed money from bank accounts, company shares and life insurance policies.

Here are two handy websites to help you find your unclaimed money:

- [www.moneysmart.gov.au](http://www.moneysmart.gov.au) – An Australian Government site maintained by ASIC, the financial regulator.
- [www.pt.qld.gov.au](http://www.pt.qld.gov.au) – The Queensland Public Trustee

## DO NOT CALL REGISTER:

Sick of receiving cold-calls from telemarketers?

The Do Not Call Register is a secure database where you can list your Australian numbers to opt out of receiving most telemarketing calls and marketing faxes. Registration is free, valid for five years and you can re-register or remove your numbers at any time.

Telemarketing calls or marketing faxes are generally not allowed to be made to numbers on the register, and severe penalties can apply.

There are two fast and easy ways to register numbers:

- Visit [www.donotcall.gov.au](http://www.donotcall.gov.au)
- Or call **1300 792 958**

## HERE TO HELP

There are a number of services for community members available through my office.

If you are part of a community organisation you may be eligible for an Australian Flag. To request a flag call the Dalby office on 1300 301 964.

If you, your family member or a friend is celebrating a special birthday or anniversary, my office can arrange for a congratulatory message to be sent. Visit my website [www.maranoa.info](http://www.maranoa.info) or call my Roma office on 1300 787 299 to organise your special message

| Special event    | 50th Wedding Anniversary | 50th + Wedding Anniversary    | 90th Birthday | 90th + Birthday                |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Federal Member   | ✓                        | ✓                             | ✓             | ✓                              |
| Prime Minister   | ✓                        | ✓                             | ✓             | ✓                              |
| Governor General | ✓                        | ✓                             | ✗             | 100th & every year after       |
| The Queen        | ✗                        | 60th & every fifth year after | ✗             | 100th & every fifth year after |

## NEW LOOK, SAME SERVICE

**Bruce Scott's website [www.maranoa.info](http://www.maranoa.info) has had a facelift!**

You will notice some changes to the layout of the site, but the same information is still available. There is a new tab called 'Community Resources' along the top menu bar where you can find information about grants, letters of support and various request forms.

Bruce has also launched his new YouTube channel where you can watch all of his speeches in Federal Parliament. The link to Bruce's YouTube channel can be found on the homepage under 'News and Updates'.



# HEALTH HAPPENINGS



Bruce's foot gets a clean bill of health in Parliament House

## STAMPING OUT DIABETES COMPLICATIONS

**Bruce Scott joined his parliamentary colleagues from both sides of the House recently to take part in the inaugural Parliamentary Foot Health Check.**

The event aimed to raise awareness of the important role that podiatrists play in maintaining the foot health of Australians with diabetes, with podiatrists on hand to check the foot health of the Parliamentarians.

"Patients suffering diabetes are likely to lose sensation in their feet, which drastically increases their risk of developing a foot ulcer or wound," he said.

"85 Australians lose a limb to diabetes every week, so I would encourage any of my constituents who suffer diabetes to have regular foot health checks by a podiatrist.

*"It is one of the best ways to stop problems from getting worse."*



## COALITION SPEARHEADS INQUIRY INTO RURAL DOCTORS

**Maranoa communities have an opportunity to address the shortage of doctors in rural and regional Queensland with the establishment of a long overdue senate inquiry into rural doctor incentive payments.**

Mr Scott said the Coalition had pushed hard for the inquiry which will investigate inequities in the criteria for government payments to encourage doctors to work in regional, rural and remote communities.

"The government currently has a myriad of programs in place to attract and retain medical practitioners in rural Australia," he said.

"One of the programs, the Rural Relocation Incentive Grant, uses the Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas map, the same flawed map used for the criteria for independent Youth Allowance.

"This means that doctors who relocate from city areas to towns in the outer regional zone such as Chinchilla and Goondiwindi are eligible for the same government payments available to those who choose to work in well-serviced coastal cities like Townsville.

"Similarly, doctors who relocate to towns in the inner regional zone like Dalby, Warwick and Kingaroy, receive the same payment for those moving to Hervey Bay.

"Rather than attracting doctors to rural and regional Queensland, the current system is pushing them further away."

Mr Scott encouraged everyone affected by the shortage of doctors to make a submission to the inquiry.

"The shortage of doctors is a significant issue across the Maranoa electorate, with many communities relying on locums and overseas trained doctors to fill the gap," he said.

"I commend all the doctors and health professionals, including the Royal Flying Doctor Service, who currently work in regional, rural and remote Queensland.

"This is a chance for communities and health professionals to have their say and address the shortcomings of the current system."

Keep an eye on [www.maranoa.info](http://www.maranoa.info) for more information about the inquiry.

# SCOTT SPEAKS

## Snippets from some of Bruce's speeches in Federal Parliament so far this year...

*I want to acknowledge the families of all our veterans—the wives, the girlfriends, the sisters, the brothers, the mothers, the fathers—who took care of our veterans when so many other Australians turned their backs on them. As a nation we must always err on the side of generosity when it comes to our military. After all, they serve as a result of a resolution of the parliament. They serve with the support of the parliament. They serve and do as the government asks of them. It is up to us as members on both sides of the parliament to make sure we always err on the side of generosity when it comes to compensation and looking after those who serve and, sadly, those who are left behind. I will never stop fighting to make sure that we as a nation, whenever money is available, extend entitlements to all those who have served, to their families and to those who have been left behind.*

### **Bruce pays tribute to those who have served our country in the defence forces and their families.**

*The state and federal Labor governments have failed to undertake the planning required to ensure that these growing pains (associated with resources development) are not felt across the community. Whether it is in housing, infrastructure or roads, they are prepared to sit back, take the mining royalty, shift it into the capital cities and larger outer metropolitan areas in some cases. But they are ignoring rural and regional areas of my electorate and many other parts of these resource states across Australia. That was never more evident than when the Regional Development Australia Fund was announced last week. In Queensland there was not one grant west of the Great Dividing Range.*

### **Bruce speaks about the Labor Government's failure to deliver for regional Queensland.**

*As I travel the electorate, from east to west and north to south, people are not only worried about the future for their families or their businesses, they are now becoming angry at this government. What they want is an election. In numbers of calls to my office and from what I hear when I meet people in the street, people are saying, 'How can we have an election, because we want a say on this? We want to have our say on whether we should have a carbon tax and this bundle of bills.' They want their say, and that is their democratic right. They value their vote. They believe we live in a democracy. Today under the electoral cycle, in the information provided by the parties and anyone wanting to represent a constituency, people read and are well informed. They are worried about this legislation and what it will mean to their families and their jobs, particularly their jobs.*

### **Bruce speaks out against the Labor Government's Carbon Tax.**

*With our world-class National Livestock Identification Scheme, one of the first in the world, we are able to track cattle from the paddock to the port and from the port to the feedlot in Indonesia and then on to the processor. This should be a required safeguard which ensures that our cattle are going only to accredited abattoirs. Prime Minister, many families are relying on this trade for their income. The cattle are waiting on the docks, they are waiting in paddocks and they are waiting in holding yards, and this needs to be done quickly.*

### **Bruce speaking about Labor's bungled ban on live cattle exports**

*We still have no subsidy available in remote communities under the proposal for hospitals, health clinics, motels, hotels, and caravan parks. What will happen in these communities under the proposal is that the signal will only be received on a satellite dish. Imagine going to a community today without a mobile phone signal? That is what it will be like in these communities. If you are an outback tourist going into many of these communities, as part of the great outback odyssey, the only way you will be able to receive television is if there is a satellite dish. Hotels are going to have to convert to the satellite signal with their own money. This is yet another example that this government does not understand the needs of rural and remote Australia.*

### **Bruce speaks about the switchover to digital television for communities in the remote television licence area**

## Maranoa graziers awarded Nuffield Farming Scholarships

Bruce Scott has congratulated two local graziers who have been awarded Nuffield Scholarships to undertake rural research overseas.

James Walker of Longreach and Natalie Williams of Jericho were presented with the scholarships in late September.

Nuffield Scholarships provide for 16 weeks of overseas travel in groups and individually to countries including the USA, UK, Canada, Mexico, Brazil and New Zealand.

Ms Williams wants to investigate research, trials and practical applications surrounding soil carbon sequestration in agricultural environments, particularly rangelands and semi-arid environments.

She hopes to visit Columbia, the USA and the UK.

Mr Walker hopes to investigate large sheep flock management and shepherding in Patagonia, China and India.

Mr Scott is a Nuffield Scholar and undertook study in the UK and Europe before entering Federal Parliament.

"The information which Ms Williams and Mr Walker bring back from their studies overseas will be extremely important for the ongoing development and innovation in the Queensland and Australian agricultural industries," he said.

"Nuffield Scholarships are a life-changing experience, and will bring benefits to not only the recipients for their entire career, but also helps the broader agricultural sector."

**Mr Scott encourages anyone interested in the Nuffield Scholarship program to visit [www.nuffield.com.au](http://www.nuffield.com.au).**



Bruce with new Nuffield Scholars James Walker and Natalie Williams

## OUT AND ABOUT IN MARANOVA



Bruce with St George student Danille Fox at the Investing in our Youth afternoon tea in Parliament House.



Bruce with Vicki Franklin, Regional Coordinator and Darcy Volz, President of Charleville AgForce.



Bruce catches up with Quilpie business owner Dick Loveday at Durham Downs station near Eromanga.



Bruce and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health Services Dr Andrew Laming meet with representatives of Headspace Southern Downs in Warwick.



Bruce inspects Eulo's telephone line with community members.



Bruce meets with Glennis Ford from Longreach and Kristy McGregor from Eromanga as part of the Rural Women Affecting Change workshop.



If you need assistance with an issue of a federal nature, please do not hesitate to contact my office on the numbers below.

**DALBY** - Phone (07) 4662 2715 or 1300 301 964 (local call fee)

**ROMA** - Phone (07) 4622 7166 or 1300 787 299 (local call fee)

**WARWICK** - Phone (07) 4661 8184

[www.maranoa.info](http://www.maranoa.info)

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